

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OPR-02 A-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 (ISO) W

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P R 271500Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3363

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0327

EE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI AO

SUBJ: SITUATION IN LUANDA AS OF 1600 ON MARCH 27, 1975

1. NO FIGHTING HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE CITY SINCE THE EVENING OF MARCH 26. MOST MPLA AND FNLA FORCES ARE IN THEIR BARRACKS BUT BOTH SIDES ARE POISED TO RESUME FIGHTING ON SHORT NOTICE.

2. PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES AND INTERTERRITORIAL MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS ARRIVED IN LUANDA AT MIDNIGHT ON MARCH 26 AND IMMEDIATELY RECEIVED BRIEFINGS FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND LOCAL ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVES. AT 1000 ON MARCH 27 THEY BEGAN MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SEEK A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

3. A WELL PLACED FNLA SOURCE TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT THIS MEETING IS THE LAST CHANCE TO AVOID A CIVIL WAR. IF A SOLUTION  
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IS NOT ACHIEVED, HE SAID, FNLA WILL CONTINUE ITS MILITARY

OPERATIONS AGAINST MPLA AND AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE IF THEY INTERVENE. HE BRAGGED OF ARGE FNLA REINFORCEMENTS COMING TO LUANDA FROM THE NORTH AND EAST BUT WOULD NOT DISCLOSE THE NUMBERS. HE DISCLOSED THAT ON MARCH 22 FNLA RECEIVED ORDERS FROM ITS HQ IN KINSHASA TO COMMENCE THE ATTACKS AGAINST MPLA AND SAID IF THEY HAD HAD AFEW MORE DAYS BEFORE THE CEASE-FIRE WENT INTO EFFECT THEY WOULD HAVE PUSHED MPLA OUT OF THE CITY.

4. A PORTUGUESE MILITARY SPOKESMAN HAS TOLD US THAT HE COULD SEE NO CENTRAL PLAN BEHIND EITHER MPLA OR FNLA'S TACTICS AND IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN THE FOUR DAYS OF SPORADIC FIGHTING. MOST FIRING HAS BEEN WILD AND MILITARY CASUALTIES ARE NOT THOUGHT TO BE HIGH ON EITHER SIDE. THE PORTUGUESE NOW ESTIMATE FNLA HAS 2,000 TROOPS IN LUANDA, MPLA HAS 1,000 AND UNITA 600. THEY CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT MPLA HAS ALSO GIVEN MANY ARMS TO UNTRAINED CIVILIANS, MANY OF WHOM ARE YOUTHS. ACCORDING TO MANY SOURCES, INCLUDING FNLA, THESE PARA-MILITARY FORCES ARE THE PRIMARY ONES BEING USED AGAINST FNLA IN THE CURRENT BATTLE.

5. SERIOUS FIGHTING HAS ALSO SPREAD TO DALATANDO (SALAZAR), 140 MILES EAST OF LUANDA, WHERE THE PORTUGUESE ARMY SAYS 3 FNLA AND 2 MPLA WERE KILLED IN FIRE FIGHTS.

6. WE HAVE BEEN SO FAR UNSUCCESSFUL IN GETTING ACCURATE STATISTICS ON DEAD AND WOUNDED. ANI HAS PUT OUT A FIGURE OF ABOUT 70 DEAD AND 80 WOUNDED AND THIS FIGURE IS BEING WIDELY USED BY OTHER PRESS SERVICES.  
KILLORAN

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